WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A polypeptide immunogen consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.

2. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. An immunogen consisting of the polypeptide of claim 1 and one or more additional regions moieties covalently joined to said polypeptide at the carboxyl terminus or amino terminus, wherein each region or moiety is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability.

6. A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the immunogen of any one of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

8. A nucleic acid comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1-4.

9. The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid is an expression vector.

10. A recombinant cell comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1-4.

11. A method of making a *S. aureus* polypeptide that provides protective immunity comprising the steps of:

(a) growing the recombinant cell of claim 10 under conditions wherein said polypeptide is expressed; and

(b) purifying said polypeptide.

12. A method of inducing a protective immune response in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient an immunologically effective amount of an immunogen comprising a polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, and said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said immunogen is the immunogen of any one of claims 1-5.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said patient is a human.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said patient is treated prophylactically against *S. aureus* infection.

16. A method of inducing a protective immune response in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide made by the method of claim 11.